

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

PETE IBARRA III,

Plaintiff,

v.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C16-0317JLR

ORDER GRANTING IN PART
AND DENYING IN PART
DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the court on Defendants Snohomish County (the “County”), Marshal Kathleen Marino, and Marshal James Simoneschi’s (“the Marshals”) motion for summary judgment. (Mot. (Dkt. # 10); *see also* Reply (Dkt. # 19).) Defendants seek dismissal with prejudice of Plaintiff Pete Ibarra III’s claims against them. (*See* Mot.) Mr. Ibarra opposes the motion. (*See* Resp. (Dkt. # 17).) The court has considered the motion, all submissions filed in support thereof and opposition thereto, the

balance of the record, and the applicable law. Being fully advised,¹ the court GRANTS in part and DENIES in part Defendants' motion for summary judgment for the reasons set forth below.

II. BACKGROUND

This case arises out of an encounter between Mr. Ibarra and County law enforcement that occurred at the County courthouse complex in Everett, Washington, on April 15, 2015. (*See* Compl. (Dkt. # 1) ¶¶ 11-19; Ibarra Decl. (Dkt. # 18) ¶¶ 3-9.) Mr. Ibarra alleges that on that date he was at the courthouse "to obtain the court clerk's signature on some anti-harassment materials for a case" he was pursuing. (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 3.) He alleges that after he obtained the paperwork he sought, he was on his way out of the building when two uniformed marshals² approached and informed him that their supervisor wanted to speak with him. (*Id.* ¶¶ 4-5.) Their supervisor, Marshal Marino, explained to Mr. Ibarra that an attorney currently in trial in the courthouse complex, Cassandra Lopez de Arriaga, had reported that Mr. Ibarra was stalking her. (*See id.* ¶ 5; Marino Decl. (Dkt. # 15) ¶¶ 5-7.) Marshal Marino asked Mr. Ibarra to leave the courthouse. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5; Marino Decl. ¶ 7; Simoneschi Decl. (Dkt. # 13) ¶ 4.)

Defendants relate the following series of events leading up the initial encounter between Mr. Ibarra and law enforcement: Ms. Lopez represented Mr. Ibarra in a matter

¹ No party has requested oral argument, and the court deems it unnecessary to the disposition of this motion. *See* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4).

² Based on the declarations from the Marshals, the court infers that County marshals are responsible for security and law enforcement at the County courthouse complex. (*See* Marino Decl. (Dkt. # 15) ¶ 2; Simoneschi Decl. (Dkt. # 13) ¶ 2.)

1 in the fall of 2014. (Lopez Decl. (Dkt. # 12) ¶ 3.) After the representation concluded,
2 Mr. Ibarra began sending Ms. Lopez flowers and gifts and showing up at her office
3 without an appointment or business to transact. (*Id.*) Ms. Lopez informed Mr. Ibarra that
4 she wanted his behavior to stop and did not want any further contact with him. (*Id.*) Mr.
5 Ibarra, however, continued his behavior, including after Ms. Lopez moved to a new
6 office in February 2015. (*Id.*)

7 On April 15, 2015, Ms. Lopez was in trial in the Mission building (Lopez Decl.
8 ¶ 4), which is adjacent and connected to the main courthouse via a two-story, enclosed
9 breezeway (Marino Decl. ¶ 4). She saw Mr. Ibarra in front of the courthouse as she
10 arrived in the morning. (Lopez Decl. ¶ 4.) She encountered him again in the lobby after
11 lunch, at which point he attempted to talk to her. (*Id.*) Later in the afternoon, during a
12 break in trial, she saw him a third time, and he walked towards her. (*Id.*) Ms. Lopez
13 returned to the courtroom out of fear and reported the matter to a deputy prosecutor who
14 then called the County marshals. (*Id.*) Marshal Marino responded, whereupon Ms.
15 Lopez related her history with Mr. Ibarra and what had occurred that day. (*Id.*; *see*
16 Marino Decl. ¶ 5.) Ms. Lopez stated that she did not want Mr. Ibarra around the
17 courtroom where she was working because she feared for her safety. (Lopez Decl. ¶ 5;
18 *see* Marino Decl. ¶ 5.) This conversation prompted Marshal Marino to locate Mr. Ibarra
19 in the courthouse complex and go to speak with him. (*See* Marino Decl. ¶ 6.)

20 From this point, Defendants' and Mr. Ibarra's accounts of events diverge. Mr.
21 Ibarra asserts that after a brief discussion of the reason why she stopped him, Marshal
22 Marino ordered him to leave the courthouse and never return. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.) Mr.

Ibarra states that he responded that he would come back if he had further business in the courthouse. (*Id.*) Marshal Marino then told him “not to come back in this Courthouse little man.”³ (*Id.*) Mr. Ibarra alleges that Marshal Marino descended the stairs toward him, grabbed him by his arm and shirt, and forced his arm behind his back. (*Id.*) He alleges that Marshal Simoneschi then came up behind him, grabbed his hair, and lifted him up off his feet while Marshal Marino kicked at his legs. (*See id.*; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 4; Marino Decl. ¶ 8.) Mr. Ibarra states that he clung to the railing to keep from falling (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5) but the Marshals, assisted by at least one County corrections officer, eventually forced him down to the first floor where they threw him to the ground, kned him in the back, lifted his head up by the ear, and then slammed his head and face into

³ Mr. Ibarra alleges in his complaint that Marshal Marino said “not to come back to this courthouse little man, at least I do not have to portray being a man.” (Compl. ¶ 13.) He made an identical allegation in the claim he submitted to the County before filing this lawsuit. (Bides Decl. (Dkt. # 16) ¶ 4, Ex. A (“Claim”) Attach. 1 at 1.) He changes his story, however, in his opposition to Defendants’ motion for summary judgment. Mr. Ibarra now claims that Marshal Marino said only “do not come back in this courthouse little man,” and that Mr. Ibarra then responded with “at least I do not have to portray being a man.” (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5; Resp. at 3.)

Mr. Ibarra conveniently recasts one of his claims in a parallel manner. Whereas in his complaint he alleges that Defendants retaliated against him “because he requested that he be allowed to conduct his personal business in a public place” (Compl. ¶ 30), he now asserts that Defendants retaliated against him for insulting Marshal Marino by saying “at least I do not have to portray being a man” (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5; *see* Resp. at 3, 15).

The court finds these parallel changes constitute an attempt by Mr. Ibarra to contradict his complaint in order to survive summary judgment. Accordingly, the court disregards the portion of Mr. Ibarra’s declaration in which he contradicts his complaint. *See Block v. City of L.A.*, 253 F.3d 410, 419 n.2 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing *Radobenko v. Automated Equip. Corp.*, 520 F.2d 540, 544 (9th Cir. 1975)) (“A party cannot create a genuine issue of material fact to survive summary judgment by contradicting his earlier version of the facts.”); *Cline v. Indus. Maint. Eng’g & Contracting Co.*, 200 F.3d 1223, 1232 (9th Cir. 2000) (“Both judges correctly held that Appellants could not contradict their earlier allegations in an effort to survive summary judgment.”); *Russell v. Rolfs*, 893 F.2d 1033, 1037 (9th Cir. 1990) (quoting *Religious Tech. Ctr. v. Scott*, 869 F.2d 1306, 1311 (9th Cir. 1989)) (holding that judicial estoppel bars a party from making a factual assertion in a legal proceeding “which directly contradicts an earlier assertion made in the same proceeding or a prior one”).

1 the ground before handcuffing him (*see id.* ¶ 6; Scott Decl. (Dkt. # 14) ¶ 4; Simoneschi
 2 Decl. ¶ 4; Marino Decl. ¶ 8). Mr. Ibarra claims that the Marshals' treatment of him
 3 resulted in "leg contusions" and hurt his back, head, and neck. (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 7.) He
 4 states that the knee to his back caused him to defecate in his pants. (*See id.* ¶ 8.)⁴

5 Having handcuffed Mr. Ibarra, Marshal Marino transported him to the County jail
 6 and booked him for disorderly conduct. (Marino Decl. ¶ 9.) Nurse Autumn Kostecky
 7 interviewed and assessed Mr. Ibarra upon his arrival at the jail. (*See* Kostecky Decl.
 8 (Dkt. # 11) ¶¶ 2-4.) Although Ms. Kostecky avers that she "did not observe any
 9 contusions, erythema, edema, or abrasions to [Mr. Ibarra's] shin or head" (*Id.* ¶ 5), Mr.
 10 Ibarra asserts that he told Ms. Kostecky that the Marshals had injured him (Ibarra Decl.
 11 ¶ 8). Ms. Kostecky states that she did not observe that Mr. Ibarra defecated in his pants
 12 and that he did not inform her he had done so. (Kostecky Decl. ¶ 5.) Mr. Ibarra
 13 explains, "I did not tell the nurse that I pooped in my pants because I was too
 14
 15

16 ⁴ Defendants present the following alternate version of the events in the above paragraph:
 17 After Marshal Marino asked Mr. Ibarra to leave, Mr. Ibarra began walking down the stairs but
 18 then stopped, turned around, squared up to Marshal Marino, and stared at her. (Marino Decl.
 19 ¶¶ 7-8.) Marshal Marino interpreted this stance as a "pre-attack" posture and approached Mr.
 20 Ibarra to escort him out. (*Id.* ¶ 8.) She ordered Mr. Ibarra to leave again, but he "refused to
 21 leave and stood in the stairwell partially blocking the traffic." (*Id.*) She and Marshal Simoneschi
 22 then took Mr. Ibarra by the arm, but he resisted. (*Id.*) He grabbed the handrail, screamed, and
 tensed his muscles to prevent the Marshals from moving him. (*Id.*) With the assistance of a
 corrections officer, the Marshals brought Mr. Ibarra down to the ground floor where they put him
 face down on the carpet and handcuffed him. (*Id.* ¶ 9; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 4; Scott Decl. ¶ 4.)
 Defendants deny that the Marshals pulled Mr. Ibarra's hair, kicked him, threw him to the ground,
 kned him, or slammed his head into the ground. (*See* Marino Decl. ¶ 10; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 5;
 Scott Decl. ¶ 5.) They also deny that Mr. Ibarra defecated in his pants. (*See* Marino Decl. ¶ 10;
 Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 5; Scott Decl. ¶ 5.)

1 embarrassed” (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 8.) After approximately five hours, Mr. Ibarra posted
2 bond and was released from jail. (*Id.* ¶ 9.) No charges were filed against him. (*Id.* ¶ 11.)

3 Two weeks later, Mr. Ibarra visited a physician’s assistant named David Bender.
4 (Claim Attach. 3 at 1.) Mr. Bender diagnosed Mr. Ibarra with the following injuries: (1)
5 head contusion, (2) multiple leg contusions, and (3) lumbar strain. (*Id.* at 2.) Mr.
6 Bender’s notes do not indicate to extent of his examination of Mr. Ibarra (*see id.* at 1-4),
7 and neither side has submitted deposition testimony or a declaration from Mr. Bender
8 (*see* Dkt.).

9 Mr. Ibarra filed this lawsuit on March 3, 2016. (Compl. at 1.) He asserts federal
10 claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for unlawful seizure and arrest without probable cause in
11 violation of his Fourth Amendment rights; excessive force in violation of his Fourth
12 Amendment rights; and retaliatory arrest in violation of his First, Fourth, and Fifth
13 Amendment rights. (Compl. at 5-8.) He seeks to hold the County liable for these alleged
14 violations under *Monell v. Department of Social Services*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978). (Compl.
15 at 8-10.) In addition, he asserts state law claims for false arrest and imprisonment, assault
16 and battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. (*Id.* at 10-11.) He seeks to
17 hold the County vicariously liable for the alleged state law violations. (*Id.* at 12.)

18 Defendants filed their motion for summary judgment on June 2, 2016. (Mot. at 1.)
19 They argue that summary judgment is appropriate on all of Mr. Ibarra’s claims because
20 the Marshals are entitled to statutory, qualified, and state common law immunity. (*Id.* at
21 1-2.) Further, Defendants argue that Mr. Ibarra lacks evidence of elements of several of
22 his claims. (*See, e.g., id.* at 2.) In support of their motion, Defendants submit

1 declarations and accompanying exhibits from their counsel, the Marshals, Ms.
2 Kostelecky, Correctional Officer Jared Scott, and Ms. Lopez. (*See* Bides Decl. (Dkt.
3 # 16); Marino Decl.; Simoneschi Decl.; Kostelecky Decl.; Scott Decl.; Lopez Decl.) Mr.
4 Ibarra opposes the motion, arguing that genuine issues of material fact preclude summary
5 judgment. (*See* Resp.) Beyond his response brief, Mr. Ibarra submits only his own
6 two-page declaration. (*See* Ibarra Decl.) Defendants' motion for summary judgment is
7 now before the court.

8 **III. DISCUSSION**

9 **A. Standard**

10 Summary judgment is appropriate if the evidence shows "that there is no genuine
11 dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law."
12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); *see Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986); *Galen v.*
13 *Cty. of L.A.*, 477 F.3d 652, 658 (9th Cir. 2007). A fact is "material" if it might affect the
14 outcome of the case. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A
15 factual dispute is "'genuine' only if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable fact
16 finder to find for the non-moving party." *Far Out Prods., Inc. v. Oskar*, 247 F.3d 986,
17 992 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248-49).

18 The moving party bears the initial burden of showing there is no genuine issue of
19 material fact and that he or she is entitled to prevail as a matter of law. *Celotex*, 477 U.S.
20 at 323. If the moving party does not bear the ultimate burden of persuasion at trial, it can
21 show the absence of an issue of material fact in two ways: (1) by producing evidence
22 negating an essential element of the nonmoving party's case, or (2) by showing that the

1 nonmoving party lacks evidence of an essential element of its claim or defense. *Nissan*
2 *Fire & Marine Ins. Co. v. Fritz Cos.*, 210 F.3d 1099, 1106 (9th Cir. 2000). If the moving
3 party will bear the ultimate burden of persuasion at trial, it must establish a prima facie
4 showing in support of its position on that issue. *UA Local 343 v. Nor-Cal Plumbing, Inc.*,
5 48 F.3d 1465, 1471 (9th Cir. 1994). That is, the moving party must present evidence that,
6 if uncontroverted at trial, would entitle it to prevail on that issue. *Id.* at 1473. If the
7 moving party meets its burden of production, the burden then shifts to the nonmoving
8 party to identify specific facts from which a fact finder could reasonably find in the
9 nonmoving party's favor. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324; *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252.

10 The court is "required to view the facts and draw reasonable inferences in the light
11 most favorable to the [non-moving] party." *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S. 372, 378 (2007).
12 The court may not weigh evidence or make credibility determinations in analyzing a
13 motion for summary judgment because these are "jury functions, not those of a judge."
14 *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 249-50. Nevertheless, the nonmoving party "must do more than
15 simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts Where
16 the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the
17 nonmoving party, there is no genuine issue for trial." *Scott*, 550 U.S. at 380 (internal
18 quotation marks omitted) (quoting *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*,
19 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986)).

20 Furthermore, the court may consider as evidence only materials that are capable of
21 being presented in an admissible form. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(2); *Orr v. Bank of Am.*,
22 *NT & SA*, 285 F.3d 764, 773 (9th Cir. 2002). "Legal memoranda and oral argument are

not evidence and do not create issues of fact capable of defeating an otherwise valid summary judgment.” *Estrella v. Brandt*, 682 F.2d 814, 819-20 (9th Cir. 1982); *see also* *Rivera v. Nat’l R.R. Passenger Corp.*, 331 F.3d 1074, 1078 (9th Cir. 2003) (“Conclusory allegations unsupported by factual data cannot defeat summary judgment.”). Nor can the plaintiff “defeat summary judgment with allegations in the complaint, or with unsupported conjecture or conclusory statements.” *Hernandez v. Spacelabs Med. Inc.*, 343 F.3d 1107, 1112 (9th Cir. 2003).

B. Defendants’ Motion

Mr. Ibarra asserts federal claims for unlawful seizure and arrest without probable cause, excessive force, retaliatory arrest, and local government liability. (*See* Compl. at 5-8.) He also brings state law claims for false arrest and imprisonment, assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and vicarious liability. (*See id.* at 8-12.) Defendants argue that summary judgment is appropriate because the Marshals are entitled to qualified immunity against Mr. Ibarra’s federal claims, and statutory and state common law immunity against Mr. Ibarra’s state law claims. (*See* Mot. at 1-2.) They also contend that Mr. Ibarra lacks evidence to support several of his claims, including his claims against the County. (*See id.* at 2, 20-21.) The court begins with Mr. Ibarra’s federal claims and then addresses his state law claims.

1. Federal Claims & Qualified Immunity

Mr. Ibarra brings his federal claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (*See* Compl. at 5-10.) In the context of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims, “[t]he doctrine of qualified immunity protects government officials ‘from liability for civil damages insofar as their conduct does not

1 violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person
2 would have known.” *Stanton v. Sims*, --- U.S. ---, 134 S. Ct. 3, 4-5 (2013) (per curiam)
3 (quoting *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 231 (2009)). “Qualified immunity gives
4 government officials breathing room to make reasonable but mistaken judgments” and
5 “protects all but the plainly incompetent or those who knowingly violate the law.”
6 *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 563 U.S. 731, 743 (2011) (quoting *Malley v. Briggs*, 475 U.S. 335,
7 341 (1986)). Accordingly, an officer will be denied qualified immunity in a Section 1983
8 action “only if (1) the facts alleged, taken in the light most favorable to the party
9 asserting injury, show that the officer’s conduct violated a constitutional right, and (2) the
10 right at issue was clearly established at the time of the incident such that a reasonable
11 officer would have understood her conduct to be unlawful in that situation.” *Green v.*
12 *City & Cty. of S.F.*, 751 F.3d. 1039, 1051-52 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Torres v. City of*
13 *Madera*, 648 F.3d 1119, 1123 (9th Cir. 2011)).

14 Mr. Ibarra asserts Section 1983 claims against the Marshals for unlawful seizure
15 and arrest in violation of the Fourth Amendment; excessive force in violation of the
16 Fourth Amendment; and retaliatory arrest in violation of the First, Fourth, and Fifth
17 Amendments. (See Compl. at 5-8.) He also seeks to hold the County liable for these
18 alleged violations. (See *id.* at 8-10.) The court addresses each of Mr. Ibarra’s federal
19 claims in turn.

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21 //

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1 a. *Unlawful seizure & arrest*⁵

2 “A claim for unlawful arrest is cognizable under § 1983 as a violation of the
3 Fourth Amendment provided that the arrest was made without probable cause or other
4 justification.” *Dubner v. City and Cty. of S.F.*, 266 F.3d 959, 964 (9th Cir. 2001). To
5 prove a claim for false arrest or improper seizure of a person under Section 1983, a
6 plaintiff must demonstrate that: (1) the defendant lacked probable cause to arrest the
7 plaintiff, and (2) the defendant actually arrested the plaintiff. *Hernandez v. Cty. of*
8 *Marin*, No. C 11-03085, 2012 WL 1207231, at *8 (N.D. Cal. April 11, 2012) (citing
9 *Cabrera v. City of Hunting Park*, 159 F.3d 374, 380 (9th Cir. 1998)).

10 To comply with constitutional protections, an arrest must be supported by
11 probable cause. *Adams v. Williams*, 407 U.S. 143, 148-49 (1972). Probable cause is an
12 objective standard. *United States v. Lopez*, 482 F.3d 1067, 1072 (9th Cir. 2007).
13 Probable cause exists if “under the totality of circumstances known to the arresting
14 officers, a prudent person would have concluded that there was a fair probability that [the
15 defendant] had committed a crime.” *Grant v. City of Long Beach*, 315 F.3d 1081, 1085
16 (9th Cir. 2002). Stated another way, probable cause to arrest exists when the officer has
17 knowledge or reasonably trustworthy information sufficient to lead a person of
18 reasonable caution to believe that an offense has been or is being committed. *Beck v.*

19
20 ⁵ Although Mr. Ibarra separates unlawful seizure and arrest into distinct causes of action
21 in his complaint, his complaint fails to make clear how those claims differ (*see* Compl. at 5-6),
22 and neither he nor Defendants make any effort to differentiate between the two causes of action
in their respective summary judgment filings (*see* Mot. at 13-14; Resp. at 9-14; Reply at 2-6).
Accordingly, the court analyzes these claims together.

1 *Ohio*, 379 U.S. 89, 91 (1964). “[I]t is clearly established that an arrest without probable
 2 cause violates a person’s Fourth Amendment rights.” *Knox v. Sw. Airlines*, 124 F.3d
 3 1103, 1107-08 (9th Cir. 1997) (citing *Kennedy v. L.A. Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 702, 706
 4 (9th Cir. 1989)).

5 Defendants argue that the Marshals have qualified immunity with respect to Mr.
 6 Ibarra’s unlawful seizure and arrest claims because the Marshals had probable cause to
 7 arrest Mr. Ibarra for stalking, disorderly conduct, and obstruction. (Mot. at 13-14; *see*
 8 *also id.* at 8-11.) Washington law defines misdemeanor stalking as follows:

9 (1) A person commits the crime of stalking if, without lawful authority and
 10 under circumstances not amounting to a felony attempt of another crime:

11 (a) He or she intentionally and repeatedly harasses or repeatedly
 12 follows another person; and

13 (b) The person being harassed or followed is placed in fear that the
 14 stalker intends to injure the person, another person, or property of the
 15 person or of another person. The feeling of fear must be one that a
 16 reasonable person in the same situation would experience under all
 17 the circumstances; and

18 (c) The stalker either:

19 (i) Intends to frighten, intimidate, or harass the person; or

20 (ii) Knows or reasonably should know that the person is afraid,
 21 intimidated, or harassed even if the stalker did not intend to
 22 place the person in fear or intimidate or harass the person.

RCW 9A.46.110(1). “Attempts to contact or follow the person after being given
 actual notice that the person does not want to be contacted or followed constitutes
 prima facie evidence that the stalker intends to intimidate or harass the person.”

RCW 9A.46.110(4).

The court agrees with Defendants that probable cause existed to arrest Mr. Ibarra
 for stalking and therefore his arrest did not violate Mr. Ibarra’s clearly established Fourth

Amendment rights.⁶ Before the Marshals approached Mr. Ibarra, Ms. Lopez informed Marshal Marino that Mr. Ibarra had been following her and sending her unwelcome gifts, that he had continued to do so after she asked him to stop, that Mr. Ibarra was following her around the courthouse complex that day; and that she wanted him to stay away from her because she feared for her safety. (*See* Lopez Decl. ¶¶ 3-4; Marino Decl. ¶¶ 5-6; *see also* Lopez Decl. ¶ 4 (reporting that she was visibly shaking when she returned to the courtroom after seeing Mr. Ibarra for the third time on the day in question).) When Marshal Marino spoke to Mr. Ibarra, he admitted that Ms. Lopez was his former attorney. (Marino Decl. ¶ 7; *see* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.) Nothing in the record indicates that Ms. Lopez, an attorney and officer of the court, is an untrustworthy source of information or that Marshal Marino had any reason to question her trustworthiness. (*See* Lopez Decl. ¶ 2.) Accordingly, there is no genuine dispute that Marshal Marino possessed reasonably trustworthy information sufficient to lead a person of reasonable caution to believe that Mr. Ibarra had stalked Ms. Lopez in violation of RCW 9A.46.110(1). *Beck*, 379 U.S. at 91; *see Grant*, 315 F.3d at 1085.

Mr. Ibarra objects to this conclusion on the grounds that Washington law generally prohibits a law enforcement officer from making a warrantless arrest for a misdemeanor

⁶ Defendants also argue that the Marshals had probable cause to arrest Mr. Ibarra for felony stalking in violation of RCW 9A.46.110(5)(b)(v). (*See* Reply at 5.) That statutory provision makes it a felony to stalk an attorney in order to retaliate against the attorney for an act performed during the course of his or her official duties or to influence the attorney's performance of his or her official duties. RCW 9A.46.110(5)(b)(v). The court rejects this argument. Although Mr. Ibarra's alleged stalking victim, Ms. Lopez, is an attorney (Lopez Decl. ¶ 2), Defendants point to no evidence indicating the Marshals had reason to believe Mr. Ibarra's treatment of Ms. Lopez was retaliatory or an effort to influence Ms. Lopez in her official duties (*see* Mot.; Reply).

1 offense committed outside an officer's presence. (*See* Resp. at 12 (citing RCW
 2 10.31.100).) Stalking in violation of RCW 9A.46.110(1) is a misdemeanor. RCW
 3 9A.46.110(5)(a). The court rejects Mr. Ibarra's argument.⁷ A warrantless arrest that
 4 otherwise complies with the Fourth Amendment does not cease to do so because a state
 5 statute sets a more protective standard for arrest than probable cause. *Virginia v. Moore*,
 6 553 U.S. 164, 176 (2008) ("[W]hile States are free to regulate [warrantless] arrests
 7 however they desire, state restrictions do not alter the Fourth Amendment's
 8 protections."); *see also id.* at 174 ("A State is free to prefer one search-and-seizure policy
 9 among the range of constitutionally permissible options, but its choice of a more
 10 restrictive option does not render the less restrictive ones unreasonable, and hence
 11 unconstitutional."). Moreover, "[t]he requirement that a misdemeanor must have
 12 occurred in the officer's presence to justify a warrantless arrest is not grounded in the
 13 Fourth Amendment." *Barry v. Fowler*, 902 F.2d 770, 772 (9th Cir. 1990); *see Graves v.*
 14 *Mahoning City*, 821 F.3d 772, 778-79 (6th Cir. 2016) (collecting cases); *United States v.*
 15 *McNeill*, 484 F.3d 301, 311 (4th Cir. 2007) (citing *Woods v. City of Chi.*, 234 F.3d 979,
 16 992-95 (7th Cir. 2000); *Pyles v. Raisor*, 60 F.3d 1211, 1215 (6th Cir. 1995); *Fields v.*
 17 *City of S. Hous.*, 922 F.2d 1183, 1189 (5th Cir. 1991); and *Barry*, 902 F.2d at 772)
 18 (footnotes added) ("Several other circuits have held that the Fourth Amendment contains

20 ⁷ The court also rejects Defendants' unsupported assertions that (1) the alleged stalking
 21 occurred in Marshal Marino's presence and (2) the Marshals had probable cause to believe Mr.
 22 Ibarra was guilty of stalking involving physical harm or threats of harm, thus bringing his
 conduct within an exception to RCW 10.31.100's general rule on warrantless misdemeanor
 arrests. (*See* Reply at 4-5 (citing RCW 10.31.100(1)).)

no ‘in the presence’ requirement, and none have reversed their position in the wake of *Atwater*⁸ and *Pringle*.⁹”). Accordingly, that Mr. Ibarra’s alleged stalking of Ms. Lopez occurred outside the Marshals’ presence has no impact on whether his arrest complied with the Fourth Amendment.

Nor is it significant that Marshal Marino arrested and booked Mr. Ibarra for disorderly conduct, not stalking. As Defendants point out, “an officer’s erroneous identification of the crime for which the arrest is being made will not invalidate an arrest if probable cause exists to arrest for a different criminal law violation.” (Mot. at 14 n.6.)

[A]n arresting officer’s state of mind (except for the facts that he knows) is irrelevant to the existence of probable cause. That is to say, his subjective reason for making the arrest need not be the criminal offense as to which the known facts provide probable cause. As we have repeatedly explained, “‘the fact that the officer does not have the state of mind which is hypothecated by the reasons which provide the legal justification for the officer’s action does not invalidate the action taken as long as the circumstances, viewed objectively, justify that action.’”

Devenpeck v. Alford, 543 U.S. 146, 153 (2004) (citing *Whren v. United States*, 517 U.S. 806, 812-13 (1996) and *Arkansas v. Sullivan*, 532 U.S. 769 (2001)); *see also id.* at 155 (“Those are lawfully arrested whom the facts known to the arresting officers give probable cause to arrest.”). As discussed above, the facts known to Marshal Marino provided probable cause to arrest Mr. Ibarra for stalking. Accordingly, it is immaterial that Marshal Marino arrested Mr. Ibarra for disorderly conduct.

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⁸ *Atwater v. City of Lago Vista*, 532 U.S. 318 (2001).

⁹ *Maryland v. Pringle*, 540 U.S. 366 (2003).

Moreover, the undisputed facts show the Marshals could have reasonably believed they had probable cause to arrest Mr. Ibarra for disorderly conduct. *See Flores v. City of Wenatchee*, No. CV-10-0330-EFS, 2012 WL 1799196, at *4 (E.D. Wash. May 17, 2012) (citing *Conner v. Heiman*, 672 F.3d 1126, 1132 (9th Cir. 2012)) (“The right to be subjected only to an arrest supported by probable cause is clearly established, but the elements required to satisfy the probable-cause analysis must be clearly established for that particular offense.”). A person can commit disorderly conduct by “[i]ntentionally obstruct[ing] . . . pedestrian traffic without lawful authority.” RCW 9A.84.030(1)(c). No genuine dispute exists that after Marshal Marino told Mr. Ibarra to leave the courthouse, he stopped on the stairs and remained there blocking pedestrian traffic, including after Marshal Marino again ordered him to leave. (*See* Marino Decl. ¶¶ 7-8; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 4; Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.)¹⁰ Thus, the Marshals had sufficient knowledge to cause a reasonably cautious person to believe that Mr. Ibarra was guilty of disorderly conduct. *Beck*, 379 U.S. at 91; *see Grant*, 315 F.3d at 1085; RCW 9A.84.030(1)(c).¹¹

In sum, Mr. Ibarra has a clearly established right to be free from arrests that are not supported by probable cause. However, no genuine dispute of material fact exists regarding whether the Marshals’ conduct violated that right. The court therefore grants

¹⁰ As discussed above, the court disregards the portion of Mr. Ibarra’s declaration in which he states that Marshal Marino attacked him immediately after he insulted her. *See supra* n.3.) Moreover, even if the court considered that portion of Mr. Ibarra’s declaration, Mr. Ibarra does not contest the Marshals’ assertions that after he was ordered to leave the courthouse he remained standing on the stairway obstructing pedestrian traffic. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.)

¹¹ The court declines to address whether the Marshals had probable cause to arrest Mr. Ibarra for obstruction because doing so would have no impact on the remainder of the court’s analysis.

1 Defendants summary judgment on and dismisses Mr. Ibarra's claims for unlawful seizure
2 and arrest.

3 *b. Excessive force*

4 Mr. Ibarra alleges that in effectuating his arrest the Marshals used excessive force
5 in violation of the Fourth Amendment. (*See Resp. at 6-9.*) When evaluating Fourth
6 Amendment claims of excessive force, courts ask “whether the officers’ actions are
7 ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.”
8 *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 397 (1989). This inquiry “requires a careful balancing
9 of the nature and quality of the intrusion on the individual’s Fourth Amendment interests
10 against the countervailing governmental interests at stake.” *Id.* at 396. “The calculus of
11 reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to
12 make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly
13 evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.” *Id.* at
14 396-97. As such, reasonableness is evaluated “from the perspective of a reasonable
15 officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.” *Glenn v. Wash. Cty.*,
16 673 F.3d 864, 871 (9th Cir. 2011) (citing *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 397). Police officers
17 “need not avail themselves of the least intrusive means of responding”; rather, they need
18 only act “within that range of conduct [identified] as reasonable.” *Billington v. Smith*,
19 292 F.3d 1177, 1188-89 (9th Cir. 2002).

20 The excessive force analysis involves three steps. First, a court must “assess the
21 severity of the intrusion on the individual’s Fourth Amendment rights by evaluating the
22 type and amount of force inflicted.” *Glenn*, 673 F.3d at 871. Second, a court must

1 “evaluate the government’s interest in the use of force.” *Id.* At a minimum, three factors
2 inform the government’s interest: “(1) how severe the crime at issue is, (2) whether the
3 suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and (3) whether
4 the suspect was actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.” *Lal v.*
5 *California*, 746 F.3d 1112, 1117 (9th Cir. 2014); *see also Mattos v. Agarano*, 661 F.3d
6 433, 441 (9th Cir. 2011) (noting that these factors are not exclusive and that courts
7 consider “whatever specific factors may be appropriate in a particular case”). Of these
8 the most important is whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of the
9 officers or others. *Lal*, 746 F.3d at 1117; *see also Glenn*, 673 F.3d at 872. Finally, a
10 court must “balance the gravity of the intrusion on the individual against the
11 government’s need for that intrusion.” *Id.*

12 Because the excessive force inquiry ordinarily “requires a jury to sift through
13 disputed factual contentions, and to draw inferences therefrom,” the Ninth Circuit has
14 emphasized that “summary judgment . . . in excessive force cases should be granted
15 sparingly.” *Smith v. City of Hemet*, 394 F.3d 689, 701 (9th Cir. 2005) (en banc).
16 However, the Supreme Court has made clear that, at the summary judgment stage, once a
17 court has determined the relevant set of facts and drawn all inferences in favor of the
18 nonmoving party, the reasonableness of an officer’s actions remains a question of law for
19 the court to decide. *Scott*, 550 U.S. at 381 n.8; *see also Gonzalez v. City of Anaheim*, 747
20 F.3d 789, 801 (9th Cir. 2014) (J. Trott, Kozinski, Tallman, and Bea, dissenting).

21 On this summary judgment record, a reasonable fact-finder could determine that
22 the Marshals violated Mr. Ibarra’s clearly established right to be free from excessive

1 force. The Marshals therefore are not entitled to qualified immunity on Mr. Ibarra's
2 excessive force claim. Viewing the facts in the light most favorable to Mr. Ibarra and
3 drawing all reasonable inferences in his favor, the court first turns to the type and amount
4 of force used. While on the stairs, the Marshals grabbed Mr. Ibarra by his arms and shirt,
5 pinned one arm behind his back, lifted him off the ground by his hair, and kicked his legs
6 out from under him. (Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.) Once they transported him to the ground floor,
7 they threw him to the ground, kned him in the back hard enough to cause him to
8 defecate in his pants, lifted his head up by his ear, and then slammed his head into the
9 floor. (*See id.* ¶¶ 6, 8.) This force was non-lethal but substantial in both severity in
10 amount. *See Blankerhorn v. City of Orange*, 485 F.3d 463, 478-80 (9th Cir. 2007)
11 (discussing a gang tackle, hobble restraints, and punches).

12 In contrast, the government interest in the use of force was minimal. The crimes
13 at issue—stalking, disorderly conduct, and possibly obstruction—are nonviolent
14 misdemeanors and thus not particularly severe. *See, e.g., id.* at 481 (misdemeanor
15 trespass). Defendants argue that stalking is a serious crime because it involves harassing,
16 frightening, or intimidating another person. (*See Mot.* at 16 (citing RCW 9A.46.010, the
17 legislative statement accompanying RCW ch. 9A.46, which covers a variety of
18 “harassment” offenses, including stalking).) However, even if the court accepts that
19 nonviolent stalking is a relatively severe misdemeanor, any resulting increase in
20 governmental interest dissipates upon consideration of whether Mr. Ibarra posed an
21 immediate threat to the safety of the Marshals or others—the most important factor in
22 evaluating the government's interest. *See Lal*, 746 F.3d at 1117. Under the version of

1 events most favorable to Mr. Ibarra, Mr. Ibarra posed little or no immediate threat to
 2 anyone's safety. Although he may have been stalking Ms. Lopez while at the courthouse,
 3 at the time the Marshals used force on him he was standing alone on a stairway
 4 surrounded by at least two marshals and a corrections officer. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5;
 5 Marino Decl. ¶¶ 7-9; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 5; Scott Decl. ¶ 4.) He is only five feet and
 6 three inches tall and weighs only 145 pounds and was unarmed. (Marino Decl. ¶ 11, Ex.
 7 A ("Marino Report") at 4; *see* Ibarra Decl.; Marino Decl.; Simoneschi Decl.; Scott Decl.)
 8 He did not threaten the Marshals or make any attempt to get past them and make his way
 9 toward Ms. Lopez. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.) As such, a reasonable jury could conclude that
 10 Mr. Ibarra posed no immediate threat to the safety of the Marshals, Ms. Lopez, or anyone
 11 else.¹²

12 Nor was Mr. Ibarra actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade the marshals by
 13 flight. Viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Mr. Ibarra, a fact-finder could
 14 conclude that in the moments before the Marshals began using force against him, Mr.
 15 Ibarra was at most passively resisting their commands to leave the building by standing
 16 pat on the staircase. (*See id.* ¶ 5.) He attests that even after the Marshals pinned his arm
 17 behind his back, lifted him up by his hair, and kicked his legs out from under him, his

18
 19 ¹² Defendants argue that Mr. Ibarra posed a threat to the marshals. (*See* Mot. at 17-18.)
 20 In support of this assertion, they point to Marshal Marino's declaration where she states that after
 21 she ordered him to leave Mr. Ibarra turned around and "squared up" to her in a posture she
 22 interpreted as aggressive. (*See* Marino Decl. ¶ 8.) As Mr. Ibarra points out, however, Marshal
 Marino made no mention of Mr. Ibarra's allegedly aggressive posture when she composed her
 report shortly after the incident. (*Compare* Marino Report at 3 *with* Marino Decl. ¶ 8.) Based on
 this inconsistency, a jury could reasonably find Marshal Marino's statements about Mr. Ibarra's
 alleged aggressive stance not credible.

1 only resistance was to grab ahold of the railing to steady himself. (*See id.* ¶¶ 5-6.)
2 Although Defendants dispute whether Mr. Ibarra offered resistance while on the
3 staircase, they do not claim Mr. Ibarra resisted once the Marshals had him on the ground
4 floor. (*See* Marino Decl. ¶¶ 9-10; Simoneschi Decl. ¶ 4; Scott Decl. ¶ 4.) As discussed
5 above, Mr. Ibarra maintains that the Marshals continued to use force on him after they
6 brought him to the ground floor. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶¶ 6-8); *supra* § II.

7 Balancing the governmental interest in the use of force against the amount of force
8 the Marshals employed against Mr. Ibarra, and viewing the facts in the light most
9 favorable to Mr. Ibarra, a reasonable jury could find the Marshals' use of force
10 unreasonable. *See Blankenhorn*, 485 F.3d at 478-80. Moreover, the court concludes that
11 such use of force would have violated clearly established law. At the time of the incident
12 in question, the law was clearly established that law enforcement officers may not use
13 substantial force—such as kicking, hair pulling, and slamming body parts into hard
14 objects—on passively resisting individuals who do not pose an immediate threat and are
15 suspected of committing only minor offenses. *See, e.g., Young v. Cty. of L.A.*, 655 F.3d
16 1156, 1168 (9th Cir. 2011); *Blankenhorn*, 485 F.3d at 478-81; *Winterrowd v. Nelson*, 480
17 F.3d 1181, 1184 (9th Cir. 2007); *LaLonde v. Cty. of Riverside*, 204 F.3d 947, 959 (9th
18 Cir. 2000); *Onyenwe v. City of Corona*, 637 F. App'x 370, 371 (9th Cir. 2016); *Coe v.*
19 *Schaeffer*, No. 213CV00432KJMCKD, 2016 WL 2625994, at *8 (E.D. Cal. May 9,
20 2016); *Rodriguez v. City of Modesto*, No. 1:10-CV-01370-LJO, 2015 WL 1565354, at
21 *28-30 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 8, 2015). Accordingly, the court determines that the Marshals
22 have not shown they are entitled to qualified immunity on Mr. Ibarra's excessive force

1 claim. The court therefore denies Defendants' motion for summary judgment with
2 respect to that claim.

3 *c. Retaliatory arrest*

4 Mr. Ibarra's next federal claim is for retaliatory arrest. (*See* Compl. at 6-7.)
5 Defendants argue that the court should grant summary judgment on this claim because
6 Mr. Ibarra points to no facts showing they retaliated against him for exercising any
7 constitutional right. (*See* Mot. at 15.) The court agrees. In his opposition, Mr. Ibarra
8 attempts to assert a First Amendment retaliation claim, arguing that he insulted Marshal
9 Marino and that the Marshals arrested him as a result of that speech. (*See* Resp. at 15.)
10 He supports this argument with his declaration. (*See* Ibarra Decl. ¶ 5.) However, as
11 discussed above, Mr. Ibarra's allegations regarding the alleged insult and response
12 contradict the allegations in his complaint and are therefore not part of the factual record
13 the court considers on summary judgment. *See supra* n.3. Because Mr. Ibarra points to
14 nothing else in support of this claim (*see* Resp. at 14-15), the court finds he lacks
15 evidence on which to base a retaliation claim and grants summary judgment in favor of
16 Defendants on this claim.

17 *d. Local government liability*

18 In Mr. Ibarra's final federal claim, he seeks to hold the County liable for the
19 alleged violations of his federal rights. (*See* Compl. at 8-10 (citing *Monell*, 436 U.S. at
20 690-91).) To impose liability on a local government entity under Section 1983, a plaintiff
21 must demonstrate (1) the plaintiff was deprived of a constitutional right, (2) the local
22 government entity has a policy, and (3) the policy amounts to deliberate indifference to

the plaintiff's constitutional right, and (4) the policy is the moving force behind the constitutional violation. *Mabe v. San Bernadino Cty., Dep't of Public Soc. Servs.*, 237 F.3d 1101, 1110-11 (9th Cir. 2001); *see also Sandoval v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep't*, 756 F.3d 1154, 1167-68 (9th Cir. 2013). Defendants argue summary judgment is appropriate on this claim because Mr. Ibarra offers only conclusory allegations but no facts to show the existence of a County policy or custom that caused a violation of his constitutional rights. (*See* Mot. at 21.) The court agrees. Mr. Ibarra does not respond to this portion of Defendants' motion or point to any facts to support his *Monell* claim. (*See* Resp.) The court therefore grants Defendants summary judgment on this claim.

2. State Law Claims & Statutory & Common Law Immunity

Mr. Ibarra asserts state law claims against the Marshals for false arrest and imprisonment, assault and battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. (*See* Compl. at 10-11.) In addition, he seeks to hold the County vicariously liable on these claims. (*See id.* at 12.) Defendants argue that the Marshals are entitled to statutory and common law immunity on these claims and that Mr. Ibarra lacks sufficient evidence to support them. (*See* Mot. at 8-11, 21-24.) The statutory immunity on which Defendants rely comes from RCW 9A.46.090. (*See* Mot. at 8.) That statute provides, "A peace office shall not be held liable in any civil action for an arrest based on probable cause . . . , or any other action or omission in good faith under this chapter arising from an alleged incident of harassment." RCW 9A.46.090. Further, Washington common law affords law enforcement officers qualified immunity where (1) they are carrying out a statutory duty (2) according to the procedures dictated by statute and superiors, and (3)

1 they acted reasonably. *Guffey v. State*, 690 P.2d 1163, 1167 (Wash. 1984), *overruled on*
 2 *other grounds by Savage v. State*, 899 P.2d 1270 (Wash. 1995). The court addresses each
 3 of Mr. Ibarra’s state law claims in turn.

4 *a. False arrest & imprisonment*

5 “The gist of an action for false arrest or false imprisonment is the unlawful
 6 violation of a person’s right of personal liberty or the restraint of that person without
 7 legal authority” *Bender v. City of Seattle*, 664 P.2d 492, 499 (Wash. 1983) (“False
 8 arrest and false imprisonment can be distinguished by the manner in which each cause of
 9 action arises. False arrest may be committed only by one who has legal authority to
 10 arrest or who had pretended legal authority to arrest. On the other hand, false
 11 imprisonment may exist entirely apart from any purported process of law
 12 enforcement” (internal citations omitted)); *see also Youker v. Douglas Cty.*, 258
 13 P.3d 60, 68 (Wash. Ct. App. 2011) (“The gist of false arrest and false imprisonment is
 14 essentially the same, viz., the unlawful violation of a person’s right of personal liberty,
 15 and a false imprisonment occurs whenever a false arrest occurs.”). The existence of
 16 “probable cause is a complete defense to an action for false arrest and imprisonment.”
 17 *Hanson v. City of Snohomish*, 852 P.2d 295, 301 (Wash. 1993) (citing *Bender*, 664 P.2d
 18 at 500); *see also Youker*, 258 P.3d at 69. As discussed above, the Marshals had probable
 19 cause to arrest Mr. Ibarra for disorderly conduct.¹³ *See supra* § III.B.1.a. The court

21 ¹³ The court previously determined that probable cause existed under federal law, not
 22 state law. *See supra* § III.B.1.a. However, neither the court nor the parties have identified any
 difference between federal and state law on probable cause that would necessitate a different

1 therefore grants summary judgment in Defendants' favor on Mr. Ibarra's false arrest and
2 imprisonment claims. *See Hanson*, 852 P.2d at 301.

3 *b. Assault & battery*

4 A battery is an intentional, unpermitted, and harmful or offensive contact with the
5 plaintiff's person. *Kumar v. Gate Gourmet Inc.*, 325 P.3d 193, 204 (Wash. 2014). "An
6 assault is any act of such a nature that causes apprehension of a battery." *McKenney v.*
7 *Tukwila*, 13 P.3d 631, 641 (Wash. Ct. App. 2000). Defendants argue that the Marshals
8 are entitled to state law qualified immunity on this claim (Mot. at 22); however, state
9 qualified immunity is unavailable "for claims of assault and battery arising out of the use
10 of excessive force to effectuate an arrest," *Staats v. Brown*, 991 P.2d 615, 627-28 (Wash.
11 2000); *see also Boyles v. City of Kennewick*, 813 P.2d 178, 179 (Wash. Ct. App. 1991)
12 ("Generally, a police officer making an arrest is justified in using sufficient force to
13 subdue a prisoner, however he becomes a tortfeasor and is liable as such for assault and
14 battery if unnecessary violence or excessive force is used in accomplishing the arrest.").
15 Here, the court has already denied summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra's excessive force
16 claim because material issues of fact remain regarding whether the Marshals used a
17 reasonable amount of force in arresting Mr. Ibarra. *See supra* § III.B.1.b. In light of that

18 conclusion regarding probable cause under Washington law. (*See Resp.* (citing exclusively
19 federal law on the issue of probable cause)); *State v. Gaddy*, 93 P.3d 872, 875 (Wash. 2004)
20 ("The existence of probable cause is determined by an objective standard. Probable cause exists
21 when the arresting officer is aware of facts or circumstances, based on reasonably trustworthy
22 information, sufficient to cause a reasonable officer to believe a crime has been committed. At
the time of arrest, the arresting officer need not have evidence to prove each element of the crime
beyond a reasonable doubt. The officer is required only to have knowledge of facts sufficient to
cause a reasonable person to believe that an offense had been committed." (internal citations
omitted) (emphasis removed)).

1 ruling, the court likewise denies Defendants' request for summary judgment on Mr.
2 Ibarra's state law assault and battery claim. *See Hernandez v. Kunkle*, No.
3 C12-0178RSM, 2013 WL 179546, at *8 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 15, 2013) (denying summary
4 judgment against a state law assault and battery claim based on an earlier denial in the
5 same order with respect to a federal excessive force claim); (*see also* Mot. at 15-20, 22
6 (citing exclusively federal law on the issue of excessive force).)

7 The court also rejects Defendants arguments that the Marshals (1) are entitled to
8 statutory immunity and (2) have a complete defense under RCW 9A.16.020(1) with
9 respect to this claim. (*See* Mot. at 8-11, 22.) Under RCW 9A.46.090, law enforcement
10 officers have statutory immunity from civil liability for an arrest based on probable cause
11 or any other action taken in good faith arising from an alleged incident of harassment.
12 RCW 9A.46.090. Yet RCW 10.31.100 prohibits most warrantless arrests for
13 misdemeanors committed outside an officer's presence, even when probable cause exists.
14 *See* RCW 10.31.100. The Marshals had probable cause to arrest Mr. Ibarra for stalking,
15 but only for misdemeanor stalking. *See supra* § III.B.1.a. Defendants have provided the
16 court with no authority or argument on how to reconcile RCW 9A.46.090 and RCW
17 10.31.100. (*See* Mot.; Reply.) The court is unwilling at this time to conclude that RCW
18 9A.46.090 overrides RCW 10.31.100 for misdemeanor harassment offenses. Moreover,
19 because genuine issues of fact remain regarding whether the Marshals used excessive
20 force, genuine issues of fact likewise remain with respect to whether the Marshals acted
21 in good faith. *See United States v. Span*, 970 F.2d 573, 581 (9th Cir. 1992) ("An officer
22 who uses excessive force is not acting in good faith."); *State v. Kigano*, 129 Wash. App.

1 1016, 2005 WL 2143645, at *6 (Sept. 7, 2005) (“It is conceivable that an officer might
 2 act in good faith and use more force than was objectively necessary, under the
 3 circumstances, to arrest a person.”).¹⁴ Accordingly, the court rejects, at least for the
 4 purposes of this motion, Defendants’ argument that the Marshals are entitled to statutory
 5 immunity under RCW 9A.46.090.

6 Furthermore, the Marshals have not shown that they qualify for the defense laid
 7 out in RCW 9A.16.020. That statute provides, in relevant part, that the use of force is not
 8 unlawful “[w]hen necessarily used by a public officer in the performance of a legal
 9 duty.” RCW 9A.16.120(1). Excessive force is, by definition, not “necessarily used.” *Id.*
 10 Therefore, because Defendants are not entitled to summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra’s
 11 excessive force claim, they are likewise not entitled to summary judgment on his assault
 12 claim on the basis of RCW 9A.16.120(1).

13 *c. Intentional infliction of emotional distress*

14 To establish a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress under
 15 Washington law, a plaintiff must show “(1) extreme and outrageous conduct; (2)
 16 intentional or reckless infliction of emotional distress; and (3) actual result to the plaintiff
 17 of severe emotional distress.” *Birkliid v. Boeing Co.*, 904 P.2d 278, 286 (Wash. 1995).
 18 The defendant’s conduct must be so “outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree,
 19 as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and

21 ¹⁴ The court “may consider unpublished state decisions, even though such opinions have
 22 no precedential value.” *Emp’rs Ins. of Wausau v. Granite State Ins. Co.*, 330 F.3d 1214, 1220
 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *Nunez v. City of San Diego*, 114 F.3d 935, 943 n.4 (9th Cir. 1997)).

1 utterly intolerable in a civilized community.” *Grimsby v. Samson*, 530 P.2d 291, 295
2 (Wash. 1975). Defendants argue that Mr. Ibarra cannot show, among other things, that
3 he actually suffered severe emotional distress. (*See* Mot. at 23-24.) The court agrees.
4 Mr. Ibarra offers no defense of this claim in his opposition (*see* Resp.), his declaration
5 says nothing about whether he in fact suffered severe emotional distress (*see* Ibarra
6 Decl.), and he produces no evidence beyond his declaration to support his opposition to
7 Defendants’ motion for summary judgment (*see* Dkt.). The court finds Mr. Ibarra lacks
8 evidence to prove an essential element of his claim for intentional infliction of emotional
9 distress and therefore grants Defendants’ motion for summary judgment with respect to
10 this claim.

11 *d. Vicarious liability*

12 Defendants argue that the County cannot be held vicariously liable for any state
13 law causes of action because all of Mr. Ibarra’s state law causes of action must fail on
14 summary judgment. (*See* Mot. at 24.) However, the court has denied Defendants’
15 motion for summary judgment with respect to Mr. Ibarra’s state law assault and battery
16 claim. *See supra* § III.B.2.b. As such, the court denies Defendants’ motion with respect
17 to Mr. Ibarra’s claim that the County is vicariously liable for the alleged assault and
18 battery. The court grants the motion with respect to Mr. Ibarra’s claim that the County is
19 vicariously liable under this other state law causes of action, all of which the court has
20 dismissed. *See supra* §§ III.B.2.a., c.

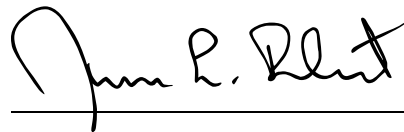
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IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the court GRANTS in part and DENIES in part Defendants' motion for summary judgment (Dkt. # 10). The court GRANTS summary judgment on and DISMISSES with prejudice Mr. Ibarra's federal claims for unlawful seizure and arrest, retaliatory arrest, and local government liability. The court also GRANTS summary judgment on and DISMISSES with prejudice Mr. Ibarra's state law claims for false arrest and imprisonment and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The court DENIES summary judgment on Mr. Ibarra's federal excessive force claims against the Marshals, as well as his state law assault and battery claims against the Marshals and the County.

Dated this 9th day of August, 2016.



JAMES L. ROBART
United States District Judge